

**PARK BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019**

Chair Craig Kittel called the Park Board meeting to order at 5:52 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at the Civic Center.

**Members Present:** Craig Kittel, Jon Hailey, Brian Schroeder, and Joe Ard

**Others Present** Tom Weinmeyer, Jeremiah Wendt, Dave Pufall, Noah Wiedenfeld, and Marie Bannink

**Members Absent:** Mandi Erickson, and Frank Norton

The Park Board toured the following parks:

**Mary Park:**

Members of Wills Play Ground Committee gave an overview of what the area would look like. The estimate the group has is a ready to build number. The group has a potential large donor but needs commitment from the City on the project.

They are requesting the backside of the restrooms be converted into two unisex restrooms with heavy duty changing tables, as well as, updating the current restrooms to be completed in 2020. They are asking for the excavation work, sidewalks, lighting/electrical to be budgeted and completed in 2021. Their goal is groundbreaking in 2021.

Removal of the play equipment on the west side will not be done until the new equipment has been put in place.

**Monette:**

Jeremiah Wendt explained when the new apartments on West 8<sup>th</sup> Street are built there is an agreement to compete the existing trail. Members viewed where this would be located.

**Freedom:**

There was discussion on where the shed would be located and if there would be lights. The electrical is at the concession stand. The fields look good and there will be over seeding done in the fall. The bathrooms would be located where the current port-a-pottys are. The Airport has applied for a Federal Grant that would assist with the cost of infrastructure; the City portion would be 5%. The seasonal employees will be striping the fields.

**Hatfield:** Monson Plumbing will be starting on the restrooms on June 3.

**\*\*Chair Craig Kittel called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at the Hatfield Park, Lakeview shelter.**

**Members Present:** Craig Kittel, Jon Hailey, Brian Schroeder, Mandi Erickson, and Joe Ard

**Others Present** Dave Green, Ken House, Tom Weinmeyer, Jeremiah Wendt, Dave Pufall, Mike Darrow, Noah Wiedenfeld, and Marie Bannink

**Members Absent:** Frank Norton

Jon Hailey moved to adopt the agenda, moving VFW Project Update to 7A and Freedom Park Trail up to 7B, Wills Playground 7C and Park Board vacancy 7D, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

Brian Schroeder moved to approve the minutes of April 24, 2019, seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried.

### **Public Business Items**

None

### **Consent Agenda:**

#### **Project Updates:**

- **Mary Park Pickleball Courts**-The pickleball courts at Mary Park are completed. A grand opening celebration was held on May 28.
- **Service Learning Day**- Students volunteered at several sites, including the cemetery, Mary Park, John Doar History Trail, downtown business district, Hatfield Park, and the Nature Center on May 17.
- **Citizens Field Sound System**-A representative from Audio Architects is preparing a recommendation and quote for a new sound system at Citizens Field.
- **Mary Park Boat Ramp**-City staff are submitting a request to the Wisconsin DNR to amend the grant amount and timeline.
- **Adopt-a-Garden Program**-There are still several flower gardens available for adopting.
- **Anniversary Event of the 1899 New Richmond Cyclone**- A small commemorative event is being planned for June 12<sup>th</sup>. The tornado devastated half of the city, and remains one of the ten deadliest tornadoes recorded in United States history.
- **Freedom Park Storage Building**-The City Council approved the contract with Structural Buildings for the storage building.

#### **Park Donations:**

##### ***Legacy Benches, Trees, & Picnic Table***

- Maple Tree – Mary Park – Wells Family
- Bench – Citizens Field – New Richmond Baseball
- Bench – Mary Park – Peters Family
- Picnic Table – Citizens Field – New Richmond Millers

##### ***Disc Golf Course – Location to be Determined***

- Federal Foam Technologies                      \$3,000
- Warren Wood, LTD                                      \$250
- Fitzgerald Lawn Care                                      \$100
- New Richmond Area Centre                                      \$1,500

- Wisconsin Lighting \$3,000
- Bernard's \$1,500
- Smallidge Properties \$1,500
- Jim Zajkowski \$1,500
- Curtis & Maxine Flatten \$100
- Royal Credit Union \$1,500
- NP Design & Photography \$50

***Citizens Field Outfield Signage for 2019 Season***

- Federal Foam Technologies
- Frontier Ag & Turf
- New Richmond Area Centre
- Doyle's Farm & Home
- Berquist Insurance Agency
- WESTconsin Credit Union
- Simply Staffing
- Gibby's Lanes
- Bremer Bank
- Guinn, Vinopal, & Zahradka
- Bernard's
- Eckberg Lammers
- New Richmond Masonic Lodge #195
- Edward Jones
- WITC
- Twin Cities Orthopedics
- Johnson Motors
- 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel
- Doar, Drill & Skow
- LSI Property Management

***Other Projects***

- Nature Center Park Paula & Steve Bilitz \$50
- Heritage Trail Project NRACF \$1,500

**Mary Park Reservation Request:**

St. Croix Valley Church of Christ (Star Prairie) is interested in reserving Mary Park Shelter #3 from August 15-17 for their vacation bible school program. They anticipate 20-30 participants and would use other areas within the park for programming.

**Public Works Spotlight:**

This month's spotlight was on Dave Pufall, who currently serves as the Operations Manager.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Wills Playground Project:**

- Shed - \$50,000

- Park (Whispering Prairie) - \$50,000
- Bathroom, Trail or Defer to 2020 -\$50,000
- **This leaves a balance of \$100,000 in unrestricted cash in Parkland Fund**

Mike stated there needs to be an updated Master Plan for Freedom Park. We do not know how many bathrooms are going to be needed. The City needs to be in compliance with our ordinance, regarding paved parking lots.

Motion was made by Jon Hailey proceed with the Parkland dedication fund as presented Parkland Dedication Funds (Unrestricted Cash) \$53, 000 Total, Whispering Prairie for \$25,000, Hatfield \$18,000 (Bathroom & Netting) and Citizen Fields for \$10,000, seconded by Joe Ard, motion carried. Mike stated there will be a policy written to help decipher what account the funds would come out from. You always want \$25-\$35,000 of unrestricted cash on reserve.

### **Freedom Park Restroom:**

There was discussion on putting in the restroom. Mike stated restrooms should be put in after the Master Plan has been completed. There was discussion on adding more port-a-pottys at the park, putting them on cement slab. Mandi Erickson stated we need to be doing more planning. This trail expense came up very quickly for approval. Mike stated we should know about the grant the Airport applied for that will be used for infrastructure by July. Joe Ard stated we should wait until next year and look at the bathroom needs/size.

Noah stated we received two bids for the restrooms. Joe Ard moved to formally reject the bid from Architectural Steel, for the restroom, seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried.

### **New Business**

#### **Freedom Park Trail:**

Note discussion above on the trail/restroom. Brian Schroeder moved to allocate \$50,000 towards the trail completion in 2019, with the labor from the 652<sup>nd</sup> /VFW, seconded by Jon Hailey. Approved, Jon Hailey, Brian Schroeder, Craig Kittel, and Joe Ard, opposed, Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

#### **Facility Agreements for Citizens Field and Hatfield Park:**

City staff met on May 1<sup>st</sup> with representatives from the local teams (Millers, 14AA, High School) who use Citizens Field. Topics of discussion included facility improvements, field maintenance roles and responsibilities, outdoor music, concession stand, lights, and communication. City staff will be preparing a written agreement, similar to the agreement for Hatfield Park, in order to formalize some of these understandings and expectations. The draft agreement will be distributed to the local teams for their review and feedback. This will be brought back to the next Park Board meeting.

#### **Mary Park Fishing Pier:**

The Wisconsin DNR has completed the review and ranking of applications, and has recommended approval of a grant award in the amount of \$24,410 for the fishing pier at Mary Park. The application has now advanced to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a final determination on project funding.

**Hatfield Campground – Electric Cars:**

City staff have received inquiries from electric car owners about charging their vehicles at the Hatfield Park Campground, given its close proximity to STH 64. There was discussion on if it would only take one hour to charge. Mandi Erickson moved to approve car charging at Hatfield campground on an open site \$5.00 per hour fee for charging, seconded by Jon Hailey. Approved, Jon Hailey, Brian Schroeder, Craig Kittel, and Mandi Erickson, opposed, Joe Ard, motion carried.

**Election of Officers:**

Current officers are president – Craig Kittel, Vice President – Jon Hailey and Secretary – Brian Schroeder. Jon Hailey moved to nominate Craig Kittel for president, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried. Mandi Erickson moved to nominate Jon Hailey for Vic President, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried. Mandi Erickson moved to nominate Brian Schroeder for Secretary, seconded by Joe Ard, motion carried.

**Announcements:**

Jeremiah announced there is restructuring of hours at the office Monday-Thursday 7:30 – 5:00 and Friday 7:30 – 11:30. Field staff is going to a 10-hour schedule with a rotating 10 hours for Fridays and weekend coverage. There will be an on call phone number for weekends.

The new Park & Trail brochures are available. Summer and intern help has started or will be starting the week of June 6<sup>th</sup>. Joe Ard asked about getting bags put into the dispensers at the dog park. Jeremiah stated they are going to try using the wide area mower out there.

Congratulations to the New Richmond Boys Baseball team!

Jon Hailey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

The meeting of the Park Board adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by  
Marie Bannink  
City Secretary